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Dear Dr. Lederberg:

I have a request to make of you, but first I should like to present a brief introduction.

I hope you have seen the new version of the venerable Scientific American. If you have, I am sure you know that it is a magazine designed to occupy a place between the professional journals of science and the popular science magazines. To put it another way, this magazine is roughly similar to Harper's and The Atlantic Monthly, except, of course, for the difference in subject matter. In case you have not seen the magazine, I am enclosing a copy of its eighth issue.

You will note that most of our authors are scientists who happen incidentally to write well. Among those who have written or have agreed to write for us are George Beadle, the Cal Tech geneticist; M. Demerec, the Carnegie Institution geneticist; T. M. Sonneborn, the Indiana geneticist; Loren Eiseley, the Pennsylvania anthropologist; Eugene Rabinowitch, the Illinois photosynthesis researcher; Max Delbrück, the Cal Tech biologist, and numerous others.

It has occurred to me that you also might wish to write an article for us. For some time I have felt that some aspect of your work in bacterial genetics would lend itself to an admirable essay for this magazine. Exactly what aspect would be most appropriate I do not know, but I hope that one will readily occur to you. Do you think that you might find time to undertake such an essay?

If you are favorably disposed toward my suggestion, there are a few matters we should discuss further. One I might mention here is that the average length of our articles is 3,000 words, for which we pay \$200. I mention this less as an inducement than to indicate that we do indeed pay for the material we publish. If, again, you should wish to go ahead, I would be very pleased to see a draft on or about April 1.

Please let me know what you think. It would be a very great privilege to publish an article by you about your most interesting work.

Cordially,

Dennis Flanagan

Dennis Flanagan
Managing Editor

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Enc.

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